

MINUTES

PROS

Amazon Community Center – 2700 Hilyard Street

September 29, 2004
7 p.m.

PRESENT: Nancy Nathanson, Chair; Dale Berg, Merle Bottge, Corey Dingman, Art Farley, Steve Johnson, Terry Leary, Linda Swisher, Tim Whitley, Members; Scott

ABSENT: Roxie Cuellar, Avishai Schermerhorn,

I. WELCOME

Ms. Nathanson convened the meeting at 7 pm. Those present introduced themselves.

Ms. Nathanson said the evening's meeting would be an opportunity to approve content for the final report. She noted that whatever was approved that evening would not be revisited by the committee. She said the committee would officially disband after its last meeting in December but stressed that members could continue to make efforts on a public level towards approval of the park plan. She said the report would be finalized in December and submitted to the City Council for approval. She said the city council would adopt a report and schedule agenda items for discussion.

Johnny Medlin said the December meeting would close the work of the committee. He said the report would be presented as a information item to the city council in that same month. He urged members to talk among the general public about the activities of the committee and noted that there would be more opportunities for committees or ad hoc membership in further park efforts.

Mr. Berg urged Ms. Nathanson to continue her efforts after the first of the year as well as other members of the committee.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Charles Biggs, 540 Antelope Way, commented striker field. He questioned the wisdom of changing the nature of the field being changed to a community park with no public process. He raised concern that this would create more vehicular traffic in the area.

III. MEETING MINUTES REVIEW

Ms. Botte offered written corrections of a typographical nature.

Ms. Bottge, seconded by Mr. Farley, moved to approve the minutes with the offered editorial corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PROS COMP PLAN UPDATE

Ms. Riner reported that there was significant work being produced. She said there would be review at each of the meetings until the committee was disbanded. She noted that alternative dates might be needed for meetings and added that some additional meetings might be needed. She distributed a list for members to note their availability to meet.

Ms. Riner thanked Mr. Berg and Ms. Swisher for attending meetings in Santa Clara.

Ms. Riner said there was a draft CIP list as a result of the June meeting and staff were working on prioritizations and cost estimates for the top two priorities.

Ms. McIntyre said materials being reviewed that evening were Chapter 4 of the draft document. She said subjects were more on a policy level and not individual specific improvements.

V. COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Ms. Nathanson recommended going through the chapter 4 document page by page with members making suggestions as they were needed.

- **Recreation Programs**

Mr. Whitley noted that A4 had no mention of environmental education and stewardship. Ms. McIntyre noted that this was mentioned in other parts of the document.

Mr. Farley suggested striking A6 of the document.

Under Specialized Recreation should include funding.

Ms. Swisher noted that A23 and A26 were too similar and should be combined.

Under Youth and Family, Ms. Swisher questioned why Outdoor environmental programs were did not have a section of its own. Ms. Riner noted that this was because of the way the program was administered.

Mr. Akin suggested separating assisted living facilities from ‘other entities’.

Mr. Akin noted that environmental programs could be mentioned separately from Youth and family programs

Ms. Nathanson suggested finding a way of separating outdoor /environmental programs from Youth and family programs. She said the main purposes of the two groups were different. There was general consensus.

There was general discussion over the grammatical errors of the document text as well as general wordsmithing.

Regarding A28 and the feasibility of become the regional provider of specialized recreation, Mr. Akin suggested saying ‘becoming a leading provider of recreation in the region.’

Ms. McIntyre noted that Eugene was recognized as a national leader in providing programs.

- **Parks**

Mr. Farley suggested that B9-B11 be combined into a single item. He further suggested striking the definition of neighborhood park from B13. He noted that definitions were provided in another portion of the document.

Mr. Farley raised concern that the document was identifying neighborhood parks as the fundamental park unit of the city.

Ms. Bottge noted that the community had placed an importance on neighborhood parks. She suggested B13 be stricken from the document entirely.

There was general consensus to combine B13 and B14.

Ms. Swisher suggested combining B16 and B17.

Ms. Swisher suggested that B19 was a high priority and should be moved to a more prominent part of the document.

In underserved areas, Ms. Swisher suggested providing portable sanitation facilities for public events and to serve the needs of the homeless.

Mr. Johnson suggested striking B19 since it was addressed in B21.

There was general discussion of the use of the terms “unserved” and “underserved”.

Under Linear Parks, Ms. Bottge suggested making the title “Linear Parks/Greenways”.

Ms. Riner noted that linear parks could be in highly developed or natural areas. She suggested that “Greenways” suggested a more natural setting.

Under B34, Ms. Swisher suggested adding “events” to the methods used to attract users to the area.

- **Community Facilities**

Mr. Whitley suggested that C28 should specifically mention the environmental education center being constructed in the West Eugene Wetlands. He added that the same facility could possibly serve as a neighborhood community center.

Ms. McIntyre noted that neighborhood community centers had specific characteristics that the West Eugene wetlands facility did not have.

Ms. Riner said it was fine to be more specific but noted that the project was noted in the CIP list.

Mr. Meddlin noted that there were still several steps to go through for the center. He raised concern with being specific about naming West Eugene in the document.

Under C21, Mr. Farley suggested removing the language about outdoor lighting.

Ms. Riner noted that lights went as a package with installing an all weather field surface.

Mr. Johnson noted that there should be a mention of use of modern lighting and lighting control and when the lighting would be used. He said this would help alleviate any neighborhood concerns over lighting use.

Ms. Riner said the statement had been made to let the public know that the possibility would be examined where appropriate and not that there would be a program of installing all weather fields everywhere.

Mr. Johnson suggested wording that there would be consideration of a competitive aquatics facility.

There was general discussion of sports facilities.

Mr. Akin suggested mentioning non traditional sport activities.

- **Natural Areas**

Under D2 Ms. Swisher suggested adding Ponds to the list.

Scott Duckett noted that natural areas were mentioned throughout the document and suggested condensing all those references under that heading.

Ms. Nathanson suggested adding an index to the document that would help find references throughout. She noted that the references were dispersed for various reasons.

- **Access and Connectivity**

Mr. Farley stressed the importance of connectivity for natural areas. He suggested an extra goal that would highlight that goal more specifically.

In response to a question from Ms. Swisher regarding the definition of Key parks, Ms. Riner noted that she used that term to note that not all of the goals could be accomplished for all of the parks.

There was general consensus to strike the word “Key” from E1.

- **Renovation /Restoration**
- **Maintenance**

Ms. Swisher suggested partnering with neighborhood associations to help provide public education.

- **Resource Development**

There was general consensus to say “continue or exceed the 1percent for art program.”

Mr. Dingman suggested a mentioning that acquisitions would be handled in the most financially responsible manner possible.

Ms. Nathanson noted that the city had a financial principles document and suggested that there might be a way to develop a financial principles document for parks acquisition.

Mr. Dingman stressed the importance of the public knowing that funding was being spent in the most responsible manner possible.

There was general discussion of H26 and the methods of how it could be accomplished. Mr. Akin suggested “strive to increase long term stability of recreation program financing.”

- **Management**

Ms. Swisher said that I18 and I23 overlapped.

There was general discussion of I15 and whether it was redundant to the document. The consensus was to leave the second sentence of I15 regarding evaluating donations.

Ms. Nathanson suggested having an objective to provide realtime information that would increase usage.

Under I45, there was consensus to remove “worlds greatest City of Arts and the outdoors.”

Ms. Swisher suggested having park hosts for parks *and* natural areas.

Under public involvement, Ms. Swisher suggested wording to encourage it from the earliest possible stages.

Mr. Farley suggested that there be a discussion of re-establishing a Parks and Recreation Department of the City.

VI. CLOSE

Mr. Akin said there had to be a forum for people who used scooters and other assisted transportation to provide ideas to the city about access.

There was general discussion of the wording around providing regional leadership in specialized recreation.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

(Recorded by Joe Sams)